



Springfield-Greene County Health Department Animal Control Program Statistics

To fully understand the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Animal Control program, it is important to understand its scope of work. The animal control program's goals are to ensure the health and welfare of the Springfield community and its animals through the enforcement of ordinances related to animals and the promotion of responsible pet ownership. Our staff of 11 is based in an outdated but serviceable facility, and takes in thousands of animals each year, most of which are claimed by owners or sent to partner rescue agencies for adoption.

This document will provide a statistical overview of the work done in our program. We have provided, when possible, 11 years worth of data. There are some factors to keep in mind regarding this data.

First, the majority of the data is specific to the City of Springfield only. There are some data sets that include data from the Urban Animal Control Area. From January 2, 2007 through December 31, 2011, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department provided animal control services to the urbanized area of Greene County surrounding the City of Springfield's municipal boundary. This service area was known as the Urban Animal Control Area (UACA). These regulations, adopted by the Greene County Commission, only applied to dogs. Datasets including data from UACA are identified as such.

Second, animal rescue and euthanasia information does not include data from 2001 and 2002. During those years, animals that were not claimed by their owners were transferred to the Humane Society.

Facility

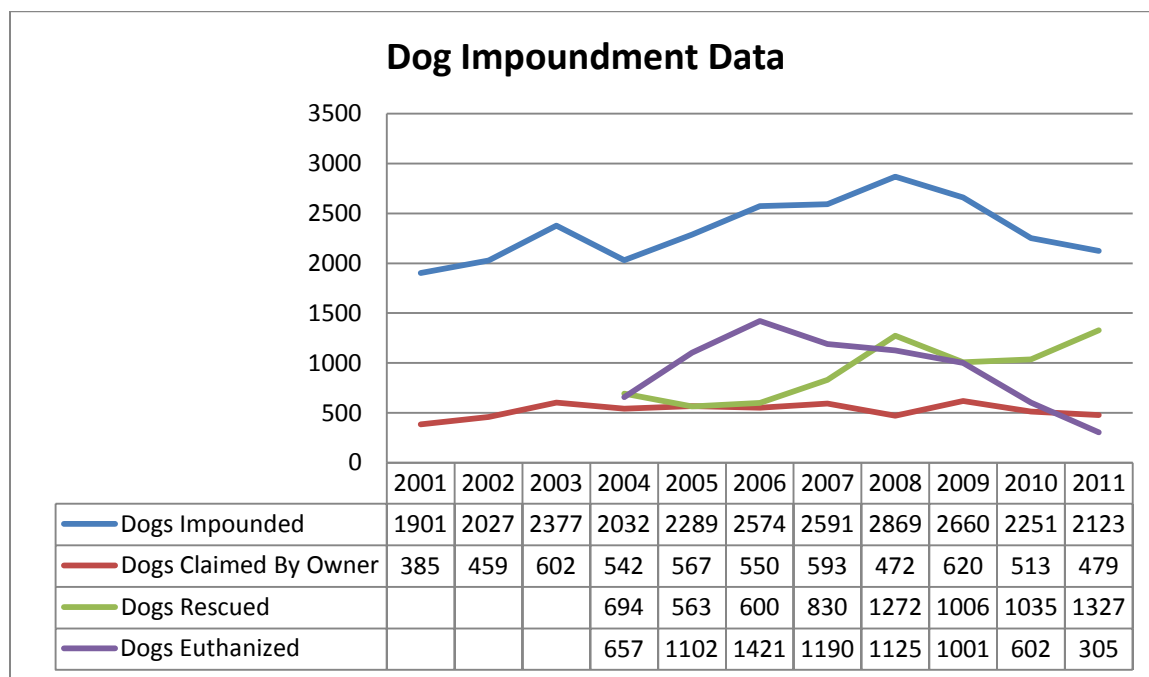
The Springfield-Greene County Health Department has been responsible for the City of Springfield's Animal Control program since the mid-1950s. During the nearly 60 years since, we have seen additions to our facilities on two separate occasions. In the 1970s a larger shelter was constructed to replace the 1930s era facility. In 2008, an annex to this facility was constructed to accommodate quarantined animals and vicious dogs. Within the last three years, the original 1930s structure was pressed into service to house cats. The facility includes 34 cages for dogs and 19 cages for cats. The facility does not contain suitable space for direct

public adoptions. Though two recent volunteer events have helped improve it, the facility's lack of space and general utility continues to constrain the overall program.

Beginning in 2010, animals brought to the shelter began receiving vaccinations under the care of the attending veterinarian to ensure health and safety for the animal as well as the other animals being held in the facility.

Dogs

The Animal Control program deals primarily with domestic dogs and cats. While we regularly have service calls to deal with exotic animals, wildlife and domestic or feral livestock, the vast majority of our workload centers on these two species. There is a leash law in City Ordinance that prohibits dogs from running free. Dogs primarily come into our shelter because they have been discovered running-at-large, have been surrendered by their owner, are being held for quarantine after a bite, or have been seized due to abuse/neglect or due to a vicious dog investigation.

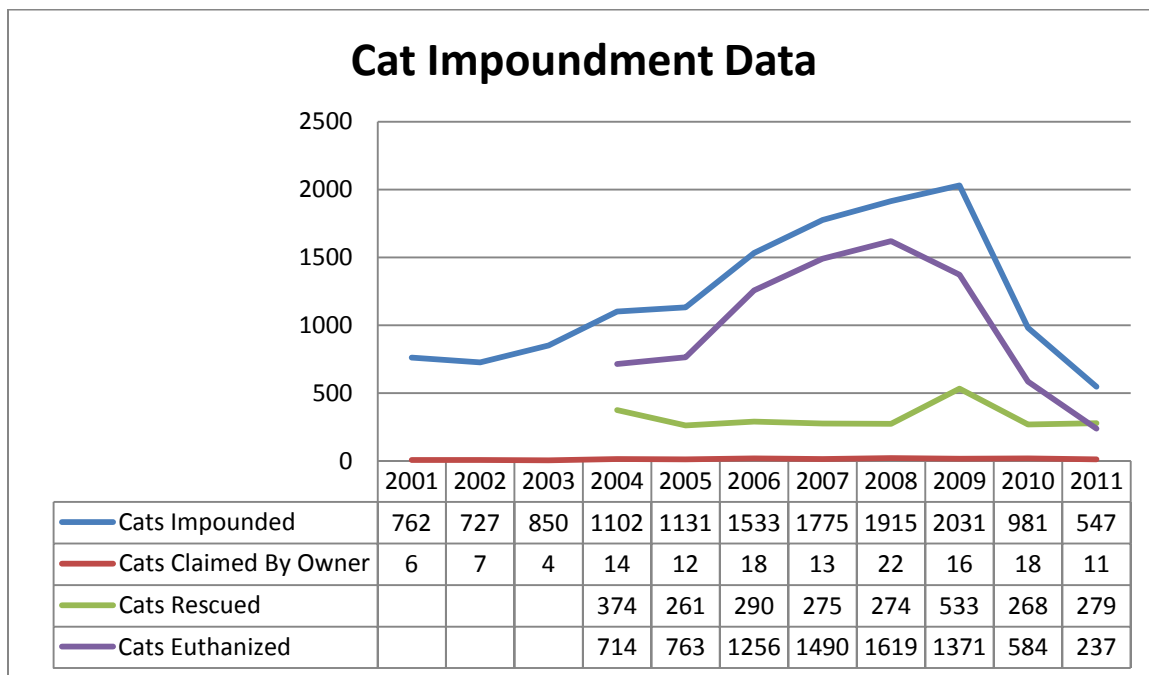


Impoundment and disposition data includes animals impounded in the City of Springfield and the UACA.

Cats

There is not a corresponding leash ordinance for cats. Cats primarily come into our shelter because they have been trapped as a nuisance animal or they have been surrendered by their owner. At times, the lines blur on ownership. Impoundment numbers declined dramatically in 2011 due to the implementation of a \$20 fee for someone surrendering an animal to one of our officers. This fee became effective on July 1, 2011. The implementation of this fee corresponded with a change in our service model. Prior to July 1, 2011, a citizen could call an officer to pickup an unwanted animal at no charge.

While this fee and model change had a significant impact on the number of cat impoundments, it had little impact on the number of dogs impounded each year. We suspect that the majority of owner-surrendered cats were actually nuisance cats that the complainant wished to have removed from the neighborhood. The implementation of the fee and the change in our service model seems to have worked as a deterrent to these animals being surrendered to our shelter. The lower impoundment numbers coupled with the consistent rescue numbers have resulted in a significant lowering of our euthanasia numbers. What is currently unknown is the impact on the feral cat population. We suspect that the number of feral cats is significantly higher today than in recent years.



Impoundment and disposition data includes animals impounded in the City of Springfield and the UACA.

Wildlife

Wildlife are often impounded in our facility. Typically, impoundment is because the animal is sick or injured. The animal will be released if healthy.

Wildlife Impoundments – 2001-2011											
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	319	322	366	329	518	411	346	393	514	434	271

Does not include UACA.

Dog Bites

The number of dog bites in our community has a significant impact on our shelter. Missouri law stipulates that a biting animal must be quarantined for 10 days to ensure the animal is not rabid. These animals cannot be housed with other animals and this can put pressure on our facility if there are a large number of biting animals in our custody at any one time.

Dog and Cat Bites – 2001-2011											
Includes a breakdown of the top-five biting breeds for each year											
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Dog Bites	148	132	111	128	102	98	87	89	103	104	82
#1	Lab Mix	Mix	Pit Bull	Pit Bull	Pit Bull	Pit Bull	Pit Bull	Pit Bull	Mix	Lab Mix	Lab Mix
#2	Pit Bull	Pit Bull	Lab Mix	Mix	Pit Mix	Mix	Lab Mix	Mix	Pit Bull	Shep Mix	Pit Bull
#3	Mix	Chow	Chow Mix	Shep Mix	Mix	Shep	Shep Mix	Shep	Shep Mix	Boxer	Shep Mix
#4	Chow	Shep	Shep Mix	Pit Mix	Lab	Pit Mix	Lab	Lab Mix	Boxer	Dach	Heeler
#5	Shep Mix	Rott	Mix	Lab Mix	Chow	Lab	Mix	Boxer	Lab	Pit Bull	Lab
Vicious Dog Attacks	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	18	11	8	0	1	1	4
Cat Bites	70	52	43	48	36	37	40	37	42	48	19

Does not include UACA.

Further Information

Miscellaneous Productivity Data											
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Calls For Service	10,552	11,679	13,146	12,090	13,216	14,475	14,989	18,511	16,837	16,765	14,735
Summons Issued	648	701	1,156	1,052	847	847	690	1,040	1,165	840	777
Miles Driven	88k	83k	120k	119k	108k	103k	122k	157k	151k	137k	136k
Feed Costs	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2,562	\$3,002	\$3,145	\$4,745	\$5,409	\$7,198	\$2,200	\$1,555
Vaccination Costs										\$5,380	\$10,611

Includes City, County and UACA.

Staffing Levels											
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Animal Control Officer	5	5	6	6	6	6	8	8	8	8	8
Custodian	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.5	1.5
Shelter Worker	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Supervisor	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Program Staff	7	7	9	9	9	9	11	11	11	11.5	11.5